

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-20 remain pending with claims 1, 7, and 15 being independent.

1. Examiner's Request under 37 CFR 1.105

The Examiner asked for the relevance, with respect to the claimed invention, of the definition of the words appearing on page 220 of the dictionary submitted in a 1449 form filed on 2/4/2005. The submitted page includes a definition of the term "port". The term "port" appears in the pending claims.

2. Examiner's Identification of an Error in the Specification

The Examiner correctly identified a mistaken Figure reference on page 6 of the specification. Applicants have amended the specification.

3. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has maintained his original rejection and issued a final office action for claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirk (USP 4,709,347) in view of Mohammed (USP 6,366,998). In the previous office action, the Examiner identified the bit-slice micro-engine of the BIU (Bus Interface Unit) of Kirk as a multi-threaded engine. The Examiner then proposed modifying Kirk to include multiple micro-engines in view of Mohammed. The Applicants' previous response explained that bit-slices of a bit-slice ALU are not the same thing as multiple threads. Thus, replicating the micro-engine of Kirk would still not yield multiple programmable multi-threaded engines as recited by claim 1, let alone threads operating on a network packet in the recited manner. Since the Examiners' and Applicants' positions remain unchanged, this matter is suitable for appeal.

Applicants again respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 and the other independent claims that recite similar limitations. Additionally, for similar reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of the dependent claims.

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RAA

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